

in so many ways, and you should be proud of your 35 years in Congress. On behalf of a grateful America, as you retire from the Senate, I thank you for your service.

During the fall campaign, you and I will engage in what I believe is one of the most important jobs in our democracy, as we lead a great national debate about how best to move our country into the future. I look forward to participating with you in that discussion.

Until then, I believe that the coming weeks and months can be a moment of genuine bipartisan achievement in meeting the challenges we all face together. Before you go, I look forward to working with you and Speaker Gingrich, and afterwards with your successor, to move ahead to give our people a balanced budget, welfare reform, an increase in the minimum wage and the Kassebaum-Kennedy health care reform.

As you know so well, it is when we work together that we can truly make progress for our country and for the people who sent us here.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

NOTE: This letter was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 15 but was not issued as a White House press release.

**Executive Order 13003—
Establishing An Emergency Board
To Investigate Disputes Between
Certain Railroads Represented by
the National Carriers' Conference
Committee of the National Railway
Labor Conference and Their
Employees Represented by the
Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way
Employees**

May 15, 1996

Disputes exist between certain railroads represented by the National Carriers' Conference Committee of the National Railway Labor Conference, including Consolidated Rail Corporation (including the Clearfield Cluster), Burlington Northern Railroad Co., CSX Transportation Inc., Norfolk Southern

Railway Co., Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Co., Union Pacific Railroad, Chicago & North Western Railway Co., Kansas City Southern Railway Co., and their employees represented by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees. The railroads involved in these disputes are designated on the attached list, which is made a part of this order.

These disputes have not heretofore been adjusted under the provisions of the Railway Labor Act, as amended (45 U.S.C. 151 *et seq.*) (the "Act").

In the judgment of the National Mediation Board, these disputes threaten substantially to interrupt interstate commerce to a degree that would deprive a section of the country of essential transportation service.

Now, Therefore, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 10 of the Act (45 U.S.C. 160), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment of Emergency Board ("Board"). There is established effective May 15, 1996, a Board of three members to be appointed by the President to investigate any and all of the disputes raised in mediation. No member shall be pecuniarily or otherwise interested in any organization of railroad employees or any railroad carrier. The Board shall perform its functions subject to the availability of funds.

Sec. 2. Report. The Board shall report to the President with respect to the dispute within 30 days of its creation.

Sec. 3. Maintaining Conditions. As provided by section 10 of the Act, from the date of the creation of the Board and for 30 days after the Board has made its report to the President, no change, except by agreement of the parties shall be made by the railroads or the employees in the conditions out of which the disputes arose.

Sec. 4. Records Maintenance. The records and files of the Board are records of the Office of the President and upon the Board's termination shall be maintained in the physical custody of the National Mediation Board.

Sec. 5. Expiration. The Board shall terminate upon the submission of the report provided for in sections 2 and 3 of this order.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
May 15, 1996.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
12:06 p.m., May 16, 1996]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on May 17.

**Proclamation 6896—National
Defense Transportation Day and
National Transportation Week, 1996**
May 15, 1996

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Americans derive daily benefits from the finest transportation system in the world. Our Nation's network of land, sea, and air travel allows for the efficient movement of goods and people, strengthening our economy, uniting our citizens, and linking us to other countries around the globe. As we strive to compete in an international marketplace, we must deepen our commitment to this infrastructure and continue the long-standing partnership between government and industry that has made our successes possible.

Transportation has played a vital role in America's recent economic recovery, creating some 400,000 new jobs in the last 3 years. Fields that faced financial difficulties just a short time ago, such as aerospace, shipbuilding, and airlines, are now profitable and growing. My Administration has been proud to sign more than 30 new market-opening aviation agreements, including an agreement with Canada, our biggest trading partner, that has generated significant economic activity in just one year and facilitated air travel between our two countries.

In an effort to build on this progress and further improve efficiency, we have increased our national investment in infrastructure—by some 11 percent a year over early

1990s levels—while streamlining the Department of Transportation by 10,000 employees and cutting red tape to speed the financing and construction of highway projects. Safety remains a top priority in these efforts, and communities across the country are working to protect drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Sophisticated communications technology helps relieve traffic congestion in urban areas and expanded mass transit systems move people more quickly and safely with minimal environmental impact.

To celebrate these accomplishments and to honor the millions of men and women, both government and private sector employees, who maintain America's transportation system and contribute so much to our Nation's activities, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957 (36 U.S.C. 160), has designated the third Friday in May of each year as "National Defense Transportation Day" and, by joint resolution approved May 14, 1962 (36 U.S.C. 166), declared that the week within which that Friday falls be designated "National Transportation Week."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 17, 1996, as National Defense Transportation Day and May 12 through May 18, 1996, as National Transportation Week. I urge all Americans to observe these occasions with appropriate ceremonies and activities, giving due recognition to the countless individuals and organizations that build, secure, and operate this country's modern transportation system.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

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